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1995 Review and Extension Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

MAIN COMMITTEE I

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 9th MEETING

Held at United Nations Headquarters, New York,
on Wednesday, 3 May 1995, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. AYEWAH (Nigeria)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

REVIEW OF THE OPERATION OF THE TREATY AS PROVIDED FOR IN ITS ARTICLE VIII, PARAGRAPH 3: (continued)

(a) IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE TREATY RELATING TO NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY:

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(NPT/CONF.1995/MC.I/CRP.8/Rev.5, CRP.24)

1. Mr. FRASER (Secretary of the Committee) drew attention to an oral amendment to NPT/CONF.1995/MC.I/CRP.8/Rev.5, which had been circulated to members. The first sentence of paragraph 2 should be inserted in the fourth line of paragraph 1, becoming its third sentence.

2. Mr. STARR (Australia), speaking as Chairman of the Working Group on Security Assurances and Article VII, introduced the report of the Working Group, which had been the result of intensive efforts. Security assurances were a key concern of many delegations, and he sensed a mood favouring further consideration of that question outside the framework of the Conference.

3. The Working Group had reached full agreement on paragraphs 1, 3, 7 and 12 of the text. Paragraph 11 remained in brackets because of its late introduction into the deliberations. Paragraphs 2, 9 and 10 still contained material in brackets that must be discussed further. The version before members did not reflect the following oral amendment: in the third line of paragraph 9, "protection" should be placed in brackets and the word "assistance" should be inserted after it, also within brackets. Much progress had been achieved in addressing paragraphs 4, 5 and 6 as a package, although some substantial differences in approach remained, and consensus was near. Paragraph 8 was the most controversial, and it seemed likely that agreement on that paragraph could be achieved only in conjunction with agreement on other issues.

4. The CHAIRMAN urged all delegations to provide input to the Working Group.

5. Mr. KARIM (Egypt), supported by Mr. WIRANATA-ATMADJA (Indonesia) said, with regard to paragraph 9, that it had not been his delegation's understanding that "assistance" was to be included, nor that "protection" and "assistance" were to appear in separate brackets, since the entire paragraph remained in brackets.

6. Mr. HAJAYA (Jordan) said that he had serious concerns about the Committee's methods of work. After eight meetings, no real progress had been made, and time pressure was increasing. Perhaps its working methods were too democratic,

allowing too much freedom to delegations not wishing to enter into substantive discussion. His first impression was that the Committee was becoming polarized and totally entrenched in opposing positions; there was a great need to find some common ground. His second impression was that international peace and security were important only in so far as they affected or benefitted individual national interests.

7. A large majority were being denied the right to include paragraphs in the final document regarding regional security. His delegation wished in particular to include paragraphs expressing the concerns of Middle Eastern countries regarding the nuclear capability of Israel.

8. Ms. CRITTENBERGER (United States of America) noted that the final version of paragraph 9 had not been available to the members of the Working Group during their discussion. Her delegation had understood the final version to be as stated by the Chairman of the Working Group, but was willing to enter into consultations on that paragraph with all interested delegations.

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.